

nal Affairs. In view of the renewed and intensified bombing raids on North Viet Nam by United States forces, will the Canadian government make urgent representations to the U.S. government deploring this latest escalation of the war in Viet Nam?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs): As hon. members know, it is reported that these latest air strikes against North Viet Nam are specific and retaliatory and that they do not represent a policy of the resumption of bombing. Whatever the case, we continue to be opposed to such action. We had thought that the cessation of the bombing was a fixed feature of the situation in Viet Nam. This action can only further complicate the already difficult search for a negotiated settlement.

Mr. Brewin: Would the minister say whether the government proposes to consult or has consulted Secretary General U Thant of the United Nations about the ideas which the Secretary General says he has to prevent the whole of Indo-China from being engulfed in the war?

Mr. Sharp: The hon. member may recall that during my intervention in the debate on Friday I said that I thought it might be a good idea if the Secretary General were to send a representative to Indo-China. We are exploring this idea with the Secretary General at the present time to ascertain whether he feels this would be a useful initiative. He has indicated that he has some ideas on limiting the war in Indo-China, and I have asked our representative in New York to inquire about his ideas because I agree with him that it is absolutely essential that some way be found of limiting the war in Viet Nam. Indeed, the latest developments over the weekend confirm the fears that I expressed on Friday about the possible escalation of this war.

CAMBODIA—REACTIVATION OF INTERNATIONAL CONTROL COMMISSION

Mr. R. Gordon L. Fairweather (Fundy Royal): What information can the minister give us about the progress in the last 48 hours or so in the negotiations with Poland and India on reactivating the International Control Commission?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs): There is no progress. We have not found that our ideas are acceptable. There is some talk about a simple reactivation on the basis of some sort of argument

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that it would be a good thing if there were the presence of the ICC in Cambodia. We do not agree. We think that the situation is far more serious than that and that if there is going to be meaningful action by Canada, let us be sure we know what it is we are being asked to do.

[Later:]

Mr. J. M. Forrestall (Dartmouth-Halifax East): Could the minister indicate to the House whether or not talks have broken off between our country and Poland and India on the question of the International Control Commission? I ask this question in light of the most depressing report today on the lack of progress in negotiations.

Mr. Sharp: The hon. gentleman knows that Poland, India and Canada are members of the International Control Commission operating in Laos and Viet Nam, so obviously we have not broken off our discussions. We are continuing them also in the capitals of those countries and with their representatives.

[Translation]

CAMBODIA—CANADIAN REPRESENTATIONS AT THE UNITED NATIONS

Mr. André Fortin (Lotbinière): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a supplementary question to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. Does he intend to make clear in a formal way before the world, that is at the United Nations, the position of Canada with respect to the situation in Cambodia?

[English]

Mr. Sharp: I do not know whether the hon. member was here but I dealt with this question. I have noticed that Lord Caradon made in New York the same point as I did the other day, namely, that the Soviet Union has objected very strenuously to taking the Viet Nam war before the United Nations. Under these circumstances I am very doubtful about the prospects of success. If there were any at all, Canada would not hesitate.

CAMBODIA—ACTION ON ADVICE OF CHESTER RONNING

Mr. Lorne Nystrom (Yorkton-Melville): I have a supplementary question to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. Has he received any correspondence or communication from Mr. Chester Ronning, former Canadian diplomat who once headed the Far East division, indicating that the United